

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a multi-beam scanning optical system, when at least three light fluxes emitted from a light source having at least three light-emitting points
5 are deflected and reflected on a deflection unit and guided to a surface to be scanned by a scanning optical unit, at least three light fluxes are entered into a deflection surface of the deflection unit at irregular angles within a main-scanning section and
10 entered into the surface to be scanned at an angle within a sub-scanning section, and provided that a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused when each of the at least three light fluxes is entered into the surface to be scanned at an angle
15 within the sub-scanning section is represented as $\Delta Y1$, a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused when each of the at least three light fluxes is allowed to enter as a non-parallel light flux to the deflection surface within the main-scanning
20 section is represented as $\Delta Y2$, and a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused from a difference of wavelength between at least two of the at least three light fluxes is represented as $\Delta Y3$, values of $\Delta Y1$, $\Delta Y2$, and $\Delta Y3$ are set so as to satisfy
25 $|\Delta Y1 + \Delta Y2 + \Delta Y3| < |\Delta Y1|$.